

(d) to (f) Proceeds of the cess on tea are utilised to meet expenditure towards research and development activities, labour welfare, foreign promotion of tea, administrative expenditure of the Tea Board etc. Expenditure incurred on research and development activities out of cess proceeds during the years 1993-94 to 1995-96 has been as under:

| Year    | Expenditure on R & D activities from cess budget of Tea Board (Rs. in lakhs) |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1993-94 | 250.40                                                                       |
| 1994-95 | 443.45                                                                       |
| 1995-96 | 540.96                                                                       |

Audited figures of the expenditure for the year 1996-97 are not available.

[English]

#### Burn Standard Co. Ltd.

5498. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the reason for delay in considering the feasibility Report of Burn Standard Co. Ltd. which has since been referred to BIFR;

(b) whether the Burn Standard Co. Ltd. is facing shortage of fund;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are considering to provide Burn Standard Co. Ltd. with plan non-plan fund, pending consideration of the feasibility Report by BIFR; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Burn Standard & Company Ltd. is a multi-product Company with eleven units spread over four States. The finalisation of the revival package required thorough examination of the economic revivability of each unit and this process involved more time.

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir. Burn Standard Company Ltd. (BSCL) is facing problems of shortage of funds. It has seven sick Refractory units which have been incurring losses since inception. The abrupt reduction in wagon orders in 1993-94 and 1994-95 has also adversely affected its financial performance. There are strains on working capital management. However, the Companies bank account is regular and it gets advance from Railways. Government has provided counter guarantee of Rs. 49.50 crore to bank for providing working capital requirement. With improvement in wagon orders from the Railways, BSCL's financial position is improving.

Release of Plan/Non plan funds required under the revival scheme would depend on the final sanction of revival scheme.

[Translation]

#### Supply of Hank Yarn to Uttar Pradesh

5499. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the demand of hank yarn made by Uttar Pradesh during the last three years and the hank yarn supplied by National Handloom Development Corporation;

(b) whether the weavers of the State have to face difficulties due to irregular supply of hank yarn; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to ensure supply of hank yarn to weavers keeping in view their demand?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) The data regarding State-wise demand of hank yarn is not being maintained. The National Handloom Development Corporation supplies hank yarn under Mill Gate Price Scheme and under Hank Yarn Price Subsidy Scheme which was in operation during 1994-95 and 1995-96. In addition, NHDC also supplies yarn as a part of their general operation. The NHDC has supplied following quantities of yarn to agencies of Uttar Pradesh during last three years:

| Year    | Quantity (in lakh Kgs) |
|---------|------------------------|
| 1994-95 | 5.76                   |
| 1995-96 | 8.96                   |
| 1996-97 | 13.96                  |

(b) No difficulty/grievance was reported from the State about the irregular supply/non availability of hank yarn.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Irregularities/corruption in Coal Mines

5500. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents pertaining to irregularities, corruption and theft of coal at coal mines are increasing; and

(b) if so, the scheme formulated by the Government to check them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Trade with South East Asian Countries

5501. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: